

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 272257Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4840

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

VUESJO/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2607

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, US

SUBJECT: SALVADORAN VIEWS ON MEXICO CONFERENCE

1. IN CALL ON FONMIN BORGONOVO FEB 27, HE OFFERED SOME OF HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEXICO FM CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE REITERATED THE VIEW HE HAD EXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY TO PRESS THAT NO NEW TERRITORY WAS COVERED INsofar AS SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ON BALANCE THE CONFERENCE WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THIS AND FUTURE DIALOGUES WITH THE US REPRESENT POSITIVE STEPS IN CREATING A COOPERATIVE CLIMATE FOR HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS.

2. BORGONOVO TOLD ME HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY'S PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, IN SOME OF THE LATIN CAUCUS' HE SAID, SOME MINISTERS (NOT INCLUDING EL SALVADOR'S) INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE US POSITION. ON THE "ECONOMIC COERCION" QUESTION, FOR INSTANCE, SOME FELT THAT US WAS WAFLING IN ITS POSITION. BORGONOVO CONTENDED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD
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THE US POINT OF VIEW AND NOTED IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO

TAKE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DECISIONS WITHOUT AFFECTING SOME LA INTERESTS (HE CITED THE SUGAR QUOTA AS A CASE IN POINT.) WHAT CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED, HE ASSERTED, IS THAT THE US CONSULT WITH THOSE AFFECTED BEFORE MAKING ITS DECISION AND THIS THE US HAS AGREED TO DO. BORGONOVO NOTED THE QUESTION OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AS ANOTHER TOPIC ON WHICH THE US POSITION PROMPTED SOME UNHAPPINESS IN LA CIRCLES.

3. THE FONMIN SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE SECRETARY'S CANDOR IN DISCUSSING THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ESPECIALLY HIS POINT THAT ITS IMPACT ON THE US WAS NOT ENTIRELY NEGATIVE, I.E., POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE US TRADING POSITION VIS A VIS EUROPE AND JAPAN. BORGONOVO SEIZED ON THIS TO IMPLY THAT THE US COULD TAKE LITTLE CREDIT FOR SUSTAINING ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE LEVELS DESPITE THE PETROLEUM SQUEEZE. IN THIS CONNECTION, BORGONOVO ADDED TO THE LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE THE RECOGNITION THAT IN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO THE POOREST OF THE LDCS.

4. ON HIS RETURN TO EL SALVADOR, BORGONOVO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE TLATELOCO DECLARATION FAVORED THE RELATIVELY LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THAT THE MEETING'S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS THE U.S. "CHANGE IN ATTITUDE". AS A RESULT, US WILL PAY MORE ATTENTION TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND HEAR THEIR VIEWS BEFORE ADOPTING MEASURES THAT MAY AFFECT THEM. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DEALT WITH GENERAL ISSUES, AND DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE DISPUTE WITH HONDURAS.

5. PRESS AND TV COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND ALMOST UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE. LOCAL EDITORIALS ON THE MEXICO MEETING HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PREVAILING SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF US/LA INTERDEPENDENCE. PRENSA GRAFICA, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, PRAISED THE SECRETARY'S OPENING SPEECH AS "SKILLFUL AND BRILLIANT" AND ENDORSED HIS CALL FOR CREATION OF A HEMISPHERIC COMMUNITY. BEFORE THE MEETING BEGAN, PRENSA GRAFICA TERMED IT A POSSIBLE HISTORICAL TURNING POINT, SINCE FOR "THE FIRST TIME THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL NOT REQUEST BUT WILL NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES ON A LEVEL OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT". IT

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EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT THE TONZALEZ AND HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENTS CONTINUED TO POSE THE THREAT OF US INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. DIARIO LATINO PRAISED THE MEETING AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND PREDICTED THAT THE ROAD TO A MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE HAD BEEN OPENED. ON THE OTHER HAND, EL MUNDO, COMMENTED THAT IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD FOLLOW UP ITS WORDS WITH ACTION DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS

SOUNDED BY THE RED-BAITING DIARIO DE HOY, WHICH, IN REACTION TO
ACCEPTANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM, PREDICTED THAT THE U.S.
WOULD HENCEFORTH DISPENSE ITS AID TO UNNAMED "SOUTH AMERICAN REGIMES"
THAT ARE BENT ON DESTROYING ECONOMIC LIBERTY AND
ESTABLISHING SOCIALISM.
MOSKOWITZ

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